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Canceled classes stir funding controversy

By ERIC FERRERO
HORNET NEWS EDITOR

Sacramento State administrators were on the defensive this week, denouncing hundreds of fliers posted around campus that question the university's priorities for increasing the funding for athletics while decreasing the budgets of all academic programs.

Dozens of classes have been canceled — many of them after students were mailed their schedule confirmations last month — leaving some students frustrated and angry.

As many as 75 students were planning to storm university President Donald Gerth's office on Thursday and demand "accountability" for the cuts, but the plan was canceled at the last minute because the students were still trying to find classes to add.

"We have to have priorities," said biology major Shanna Klark, who was one of the students organizing the demonstration at Gerth's office. "We're here to get an education."

Associate Vice President for Administration Bill Pickens agreed.

"Just in terms of the numbers that's a fair criticism," he said. "You also have to look beyond the numbers at what they mean."

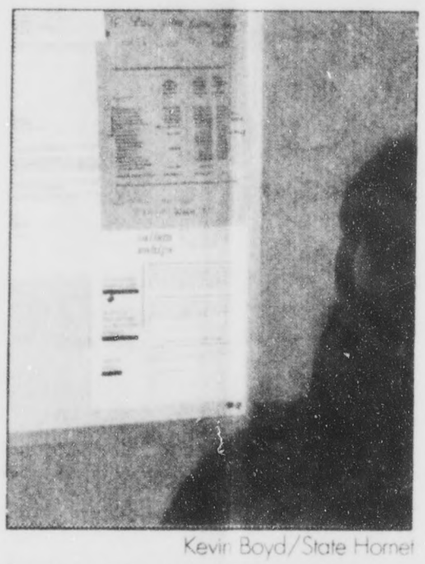
According to Pickens, $40,000 was added to the athletics program to hire a director of development who will explore ways the department can raise state funds independent of the university.

Another $50,000 was spent on women's soccer to adhere to a state mandate for gender equity.

The 2.6 percent budget increase for athletics amounts to "just $26,000," Dean of Student Affairs George Wayne said.

"I'm not justifying it one way or another, but that's a very small increase. It does look like it has a greater priority. It's just a temporary fixture to get gender equity," he said.

Pickens said last year's budget for athletics received a 13 percent cut, while the five academic schools received an average six percent cut.



Kevin Boyd/State Hornet

Hundreds of fliers protesting this year's budget were posted on campus this week.

This year, the five academic schools received an average cut of 2.4 percent.

Biological sciences student Nicole Parker, who was also helping organize the protest at Gerth's office, said this year's budget is part of a long-term shift toward athletics.

"Athletics is great, but we have to have priorities. We're here to get an education," she said.

Hundreds of fliers posted around campus noted that athletics was one of the two programs to receive additional funding.

"If you were closed out of a class you need, this may help explain why," the flier states. A photocopy of Gerth's budget allocation for this year is enlarged on the flier.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Jolene Koester said she saw the fliers but said academics remain the university's top priority and defended the increase in funding for athletics.

"Obviously I'm concerned about the academic program. It's my first priority," Koester said.

"Sometimes you have to spend a little money in order to save later," she added.

Koester, who does not know how many classes have been canceled this semester, said the university is focusing on maintaining academic quality with less funding.

"Students work really hard to be here and go to school here. They want their classes," she said. "We will never be able to offer all of the classes students want."

Like Klark and Parker's canceled Chemistry 1B class, Koester said some classes were canceled after students received their CASPER confirmation in the mail.

"We have really been encouraging the deans to make the decision during the CASPER time, but there are always circumstances that arise," Koester said.



Duane Brown/State Hornet

"When I was offered the position I accepted immediately," said newly-appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs Jolene Koester. "I am very pleased."

Koester clinches vice president appointment

By PETE BROWN
HORNET IMPULSE EDITOR

Former interim vice president, Jolene Koester, was hired to fill the vice presidential vacancy Dec. 20, after an extensive field of applicants was narrowed to six finalists.

Koester, who had been interim vice president during the fall semester last fall, was hired by university President Donald Gerth after he had been given recommendations by a selection committee made up of both faculty and students.

"I offered her the position and she accepted. She was my first choice." Gerth said.

It is not known publicly, however, how many other candidates, if any, were seriously considered, or even offered, the position for vice president.

Elizabeth Moulds, dean and assistant to the president and member of the vice-presidential selection committee, said, the committee "treats a search committee action as a part of a personal action, so it's personal."

Late last November and early December, six candidates were interviewed by both faculty and students for the position of vice president. A selection committee made up of six faculty and one student gave their recommendations to Gerth for the position.

"I was impressed by all the candidates," Gerth said, "The selection committee did an excellent job of getting qualified candidates. They were all fitted for the job."

> "I offered her the position, and she accepted. She was my first choice."
> — Donald Gerth

Bill Pickens, associate vice president for administration, said a "ballpark" figure of the cost to the university to bring the other candidates out to Sacramento State was $2,000-3,000. Pickens attributed this cost to three of the candidates being from out of state.

Koester said she will concentrate on the university's Strategic plan and try to map a better understanding for the plan for the faculty and university.

"I am very pleased. When I was offered the position I accepted immediately," Koester said.

Koester said while she thought that every candidate in the pool indicated they would be great vice presidents, she was confident in her abilities and faith in her skills that enabled her to be as qualified as the any of the other candidates.

"In the spring I will create discuss groups and will lay-out to the faculty what my goals will be for the next five years," Koester said.

Since she has the knowledge of already working with the faculty and instituting plans and new ideas Koester said she will be able to keep this up and continue the good relationship she has had with them.

In her interview last fall, Koester stressed the need for a more balanced curriculum.

She said the primary movers and shakers of the curriculum had to be the faculty and a need for leadership should come from the vice president position.

Koester called for fewer of the budget cuts and greater accountability for curriculum and planning by the university to the public.

Koester came to the university in 1983 as an assistant professor in the department of communication studies. She served as chair of that department from 1986 to 1989 and then moved to the Academic Affairs division where she soon advanced from assistant, associate and then to interim vice president.

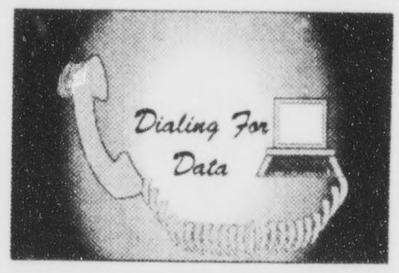
300 topics available by phone

By JOE SHARPE
HORNET STAFF WRITER

The Sacramento State Division of Student Affairs and the Student Health Center this week launched Nexus Infosource — a new phone system that offers students 24-hour access to over 300 taped messages on administration, campus and health issues through a totally confidential system.

In development for a year, the Nexus system was paid for out of the budget of the Dean of Student Affairs, George Wayne, at a cost of about $12,000.

Included in the cost is the computer system itself, which is equipped with four lines, and about 20,000 brochures listing the recordings. Among the sections are birth control, admissions and records, and sexual assault and abuse.



"This is another initiative to upgrade the campus environment with information resources," Wayne said. "We're upgrading our technological base to make up for a lack of human resources. But it is not a substitute for a person. It's a supplement."

The service is totally automated, requiring only the input from a touch-tone telephone. At the end of the messages is a recording of relevant telephone numbers for normal campus services.

"They're going to give you enough to start with, then if you want to go further you would take that responsibility to call and get more information," said health education Director Laurie Bisset-Grady, who coordinates the Health Information section of messages.

Brochures listing the messages can currently be obtained in the Health Center, though Bisset-Grady plans to expand the distribution to include many major traffic areas by Feb. 11.

Though the Nexus system has been in operation for only one week, and the brochures distributed for less than that, similar systems have been in use on other campuses for years.

One such system at De Anza College in Cupertino uses the same recorded health messages as the Nexus. The messages were bought from the Institute for Drug and Alcohol Prevention.

The De Anza system, called Infomania, has

Please see PHONES, p. 2

News

Earthquake toll will cost CSU $200 million

By ERIC FERRERO
HORNET NEWS EDITOR

Cal State Northridge and nine smaller Southern California colleges are picking up the pieces of last month's devastating 6.6 earthquake and wondering how they will raise the estimated $500 million needed for campus repairs.

Over 26,000 students at Northridge, which is located at the quake's epicenter, will start classes Feb. 14 — two weeks behind schedule.

"We are discovering every day that there is some new crisis we didn't expect," CSU Chancellor Barry Munitz said last week. "Every building has some structural damage."

The most well-known damage at Northridge is the new campus parking garage that collapsed during the quake and subsequent aftershocks. Munitz said the library was also badly damaged and there were chemical fires in the science buildings.

"This spring, we are going to have to deliver education there unlike we have on any other campus," he said.

Night and weekend classes will be held to make the best use of the few safe facilities on campus, and the university will also hold classes at Los Angeles Mission College, which suffered no major damages. Classes will also be held in dormitories, cafeterias, gyms and trailers.

In the meantime, according to CSU Spokeswoman Colleen Bentley-Adler, Northridge administrative offices are still operating out of tents.

Bentley-Adler said tent offices will remain in place indefinitely, and she estimated that the total damage at Northridge will be "at the very least $200 million."

Bentley-Adler said the university hopes to recover most of that money from federal relief assistance or from a sales tax that may be added to help raise funds.

During the earthquake, nearly 150 students were living on campus for the intercession, Bentley-Adler said.

"There were no injuries on campus, but at least one student in a nearby apartment building was killed," she said.

She said Northridge was expecting 26,000 students this semester, but that will decrease to about 22,000.

"Enrollment will definitely will be down. We aren't totally sure of the numbers, but we know we're going to lose some students," Bentley-Adler said.

Within hours of the earthquake, a 21-person CSU emergency response team was dispatched to the campus to assist in the initial cleanup.

Sacramento State police officers Ken Harbuck and Roger Britton were among the 21 people from various CSUs throughout Northern California sent to the site.

State financial aid deadline extended

Due to the Los Angeles earthquake, the filing deadline for grants, loans and fellowships from the California Student Aid Commission will be extended from March 2 to April 2.

Last year, the commission gave $3 billion in aid. To apply, call (916) 455-0880.

FEB. CAMPUS CALENDAR FEB.

Today

The Music Department is seeking new players with high school band experience to play with the Symphonic Wind Ensemble or the Concert Band. For more information contact Dr. Halseth in Music Bldg., Room 113 or call him at 278-6439.

Saturday, Feb. 5

"Musical Encounters," a vocal concert of traditional and traditional music from Spain, Italy, France and the Americas, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall. General admission is $8.00 and students admission $4.00. Tickets are available at the door.

Tuesday, Feb. 8

•Samahang Pilipino will have a general meeting in Mendocino Hall, Room 4004 at 7 p.m.

Japanese American advocate to speak

A film documenting Gordon Hirabayashi's refusal to be interned in Japanese prison camps is being presented today at noon in the Redwood Room, University Union. The film will be followed by a question and answer period.

In 1942, Hirabayashi defied Executive Order 9066, refusing to be interned on the grounds that the order violated Constitutional freedoms. Although he lost his initial court decision, the Supreme Court overturned the verdict 42 years later.

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Phones: $12,000 system installed

Continued from p.1

been running since August of 1993 and serves a student body similar in size and nature to Sacramento State's. Ruth Foy, Director of the Student Health Center at De Anza, described the student response as "marvelous."

Infomania logged over 36,000 calls last year and is on the way to doubling that figure for this year.

"I'm pleased as punch with the system, and the campus is pleased," Foy said. Since 1993, Infomania has been expanded from two lines to 16 and has been updated each semester.

"We're upgrading our technological base to make up for a lack of human resources."
— Laurie Bisset-Grady

A feature built into the system is the ability for callers to leave a 30 second evaluation of the message. Bisset-Grady expects this to be started "once the kinks are worked out."

As for expansion of Nexus, Bisset-Grady said, "We're going to use the spring as a kick-off semester and probably make any changes over the summer so we have it ready for the fall semester."

If the system proves successful, Wayne looks forward to upgrades including a connection with the Financial Aid and Administration offices which would allow students to obtain personalized information.

Politics Aside

Student, businessman named to Board of Trustees

By TONY VALLS
Hornet Staff Writer

Gov. Pete Wilson announced the appointments Jan. 10 of a Cal State Fullerton student and a Los Angeles businessman to the CSU Board of Trustees, filling positions that have sat vacant for several months.

Christopher A. Lowe, a Republican student majoring in political science and business administration, serves as Associated Students Inc. president at Fullerton. He is an intern in the administration department for the City of Placentia and former assistant controller at Lowe Industries.

Michael D. Stennis, 35, a Democrat, is the president of Golden Bird Inc., a fast food chain. The son of the late Willie J. Stennis who also served as a CSU trustee from 1975 to 1991, Stennis received his bachelor's degree in art and business from the University of Hawaii in 1981.

He is a member of the Urban League, the NAACP and the African-American Community Forum.

Stennis is active in educational programs for disadvantaged youth and serves as a mentor and a speaker for the Angel City Links, Young Achiever's Program and is a regular speaker at school career days and educational seminars. His appointment requires state Senate confirmation.

Lowe is also vice chair of the student health advisory committee at Fullerton and is a commissioner on the Greek Judicial Commission as a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity.

Lowe has served as controller and chair of the Administrative Affairs Committee for CSSA. He currently serves as a campus representative from Fullerton to the United States Student Association and is a member of the Los Angeles Collegiate Council.

As a CSU student trustee, Lowe's appointment does not require state Senate confirmation.



"It's a challenging position, and it comes in challenging times."
— Christopher Lowe

Lowe said he sees the student trustee position as one of student advocacy, representing the CSU system's nearly 350,000 students to the board which is responsible for voting on and helping direct policy, overseeing a multi-billion dollar budget and monitoring development of the 20 CSU campuses.

While his is only "one voice out of 18," Lowe said he will bring the realistic side of student fee increases to the board.

He does not advocate fee increases for students, but said if fees must increase, students and parents must be able to project and budget for them.

"What I'd like to see in the time I'm going to be here is that if there is a fee increase, it be predictable," Lowe said.

The Board of Trustees faces unprecedented challenges during Lowe's two-year term, he said, including a re-evaluation of both the Master Plan and the system's ability to continue providing service with current state funding levels as well as the solicitation of additional resources from the private sector. Lowe also plans to visit all 20 CSU campuses as trustee.

"It's a challenging position, and it comes in challenging times," Lowe said.

The student seat has been vacant since July 1993, and the other for at least a year, CSU Chancellor's spokeswoman Colleen Bentley-Adler said.

The California State Student Association took no position to support or oppose any nominee, according to Executive Director Nicole Launder.

"We are hoping to see them more open to student input," Launder said. "Time will tell. It is hard to tell at this time how well they will do."

Launder said the governor's nomination of these particular individuals could have been in response to Assembly Bill 2113, authored by Assemblywoman Hilda Solis, D-El Monte, a trustee reform bill calling for more diversity on the Board of Trustees.

"The trustees should reflect the people of California. In the past they have not reflected that — only the high-power business people," Launder said. "We want more students on the board to reflect the student body. The board also needs to respond to California's ethnic, economic and educational diversities."

Other student trustee applicants included Sacramento State student Nova Barlow, Chico State student Jud Telincic and San Diego State student Paulique Lindahl.

A total of 24 trustees serve on the board, 19 of whom are appointed by the governor.

Members serve eight-year terms, except three — a student trustee, an alumni trustee and a faculty trustee — who serve two-year terms.

The next trustees meeting is scheduled for March 22 and 23, and its agenda has not yet been set, Bentley-Adler said.

New law suspends under-age drinkers' licenses for one year

By CATHY KROHN
Hornet Staff Writer

A new law that took effect Jan. 1 will make it harder for those under 21 to escape punishment for drinking any amount of alcohol and driving.

The new law states that drivers under 21 found with any alcohol in their systems will have their licenses suspended for one year. Unlicensed drivers who are under 16 will have to wait a year to apply for their driver's licenses.

Under the law, a driver's refusal to submit to a passive alcohol test by an officer will result in a one year's suspension as well, regardless of the driver's blood alcohol level.

A person who refuses the test will also be required to pay $100 plus licensing fees for reinstatement or first-time license issuance.

Sacramento-area teenagers are already feeling the effects of this law. Nineteen-year-old Loomis resident Aaron Rickey was stopped Jan. 15 in a grocery store parking lot for squealing his tires. He had been drinking at a Kings basketball game, and passed all the officers' roadside coordination tests.

Rickey probably would have been free to leave for home if another officer hadn't arrived with a breathalyzer. His blood alcohol was found to be .08 percent, so the officers took him to jail to wait for his parents. His driver's license was suspended for a year.

His passenger, also under 21 and also drinking, was allowed to call a friend to pick him up and suffered no legal consequences.

"I felt like they weren't going to cut me any slack, like they wanted to make an example of me," Rickey said.

Rickey said he felt he was in the midddle of a test to try out the new law. Had it been 15 days earlier or had he been two years older, he said, the results would have been much different.

The "zero tolerance law" clears up the historical discrepencies in California law concerning under-age drinking and driving. Prior to this legislation, it was illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to drink, but there was no penalty for 16- to 18-year-old drivers caught with a blood alcohol level of .05 percent or less. Eighteen- to 20-year-olds could have up to .08 percent blood alochol with no penalty.

Now, under-age drivers will have their licenses removed immediately for a blood alcohol level as low as .01 percent, which translates to about a half of a beer's worth of alcohol.

John Hamrick, Sacramento State police investigator, said that since Sacramento State students had been on break that no one on campus has been affected by the law, but he thinks they will in the future.

"If someone on campus has a beer and is stopped, there is a chance they'll have their license suspended," Hamrick said.

This law is just part of the good news for those in California campaigning against drinking and driving. In the past drinking and driving had been found to cause almost half of all traffic accidents for minors, and minors also contribute to the total numbers of automobile injuries and fatalities.

In 1990 alone, this group of drivers killed 60 Californians and injured an additional 1,591 people, according to the legislative manual for the California Peace Officers Association.

However, the number of fatalities in California from alcohol-related car accidents has been decreasing. In 1988, 292 minors were killed in these accidents in California and in 1992 the number dropped to 194.

The numbers aren't just dropping for minors. In California in 1992, the number of those killed in alcohol related crashes dropped from 1,832 to 1,282, a 23 percent decrease.

California Highway Patrol Commissioner Maury Hannigan is encouraged by the decline in drinking related accidents. "California has the toughest laws in the nation against driving under the influence," Hannigan said.

"For decades, half of all traffic deaths were alcohol-related. But now we are seeing a positive change in the number of of victims killed in alcohol-involved collisions. There are hundreds of people alive today in California who owe their lives to the efforts of those who have refused to accept driving under the influence as the status quo," Hannigan said.

These drops parallel an overall drop in consumption of alcohol in California. The use of beer has dropped 20 percent in California in the last decade.

Hard liquor consumption has also dropped to its lowest level since 1935 and has dropped 45 percent in the last 14 years. Wine consumption has dropped the most, falling 41 percent since 1985.

Dr. Donald M. Bowman, executive director of the California Council on Alcohol Problems, believes there is a tie between the two sets of numbers.

Bowman thinks that the drop in alcohol related highway deaths is the effect of public awareness on the subject, more concern with health, local prevention programs, and tougher drunk driving laws such as this one.

In Other News...

More than 100 midshipmen face expulsion in test scandal

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — More than 100 U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen face possible expulsion by a panel that is investigating their participation in the largest cheating scandal in school history, sources said.

A five-member panel of officers, headed by Rear Adm. Richard C. Allen, was to review about 80 percent of the 133 midshipmen implicated in the distribution of advance copies of an electrical engineering exam in December 1992, sources told The (Baltimore) Sun.

Nearly all the remaining midshipmen will face some disciplinary action short of expulsion, sources told The Sun.

Navy officials said that the panel began work Monday and that no action had been taken as of Tuesday.

Three retired admirals, headed by Adm. Leon "Bud" Edney, decided to send the cases to the panel after reviewing them for a week and a half.

"They don't think guaranteeing their remaining at the academy is appropriate" in the majority of the cases, said a Navy official who spoke to The Sun on condition of anonymity. "There's enough here to consider evidence of a serious nature."

The admirals have three other options: send the case to the commandant of midshipmen, who could recommend a penalty less severe than expulsion, send the case to a military court or dismiss the case entirely.

The review panel was recommended last week by the academy's superintendent, Rear Adm. Thomas C. Lynch, as a substitute for the midshipmen honor boards, which usually handle violations of the honor code.

The code states that midshipmen do not "lie, cheat or steal." But a report by the Navy's inspector general last week found many midshipmen lacked faith in the honor boards. To ensure fairness, Lynch received approval from top Navy officials to create the panel.

Besides Allen, the panel includes Navy Capts. Barbara E. McGann, Robert Sutton and Lee Womack and Marine Col. William R. Jones.

The majority of the review panel must rule that a midshipmen committed an honor offense. Charges will be dismissed and no further action taken if the evidence does not support the finding.

Police disperse University of Nairobi student protestors

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Police threw tear gas Tuesday to disperse University of Nairobi students blocking a city street to press for the resumption of classes halted by a 9-week lecturers' strike.

Students threw stones at motorists and set up roadblocks with stones, logs and fires Monday night, said police Commissioner Shadrack Kiriku.

"They continued doing so this morning and we intend to maintain orderly flow of traffic," Kiruki said.

A melee broke out when police removed the roadblocks Tuesday morning, he said. During the fracas, some students broke into the cafeteria for free meals while others were seen packing their belongings and leaving the campus.

Most lecturers in the East African nation's four public universities are striking to win the registration of a proposed University Academic Staff Union. The strike has idled nearly 60,000 students.

Student leaders want the government and university administrators to resolve the crisis so that classes can resume.

The government has refused to register the union. President Daniel arap Moi has said unions are below the dignity of academics and has proposed establishing university welfare associations instead.

But the striking lecturers say a union is needed to address problems of low salaries, lack of housing, a high student-to-faculty ratio and inadequate laboratory equipment.

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SPORTS

Hornets to test new pitching this season

By ROB BURNS
HORNET STAFF WRITER

After a successful first year campaign through the Western Athletic Conference that nearly ended with a post-season bid, the Sacramento State baseball team will enter 1994 with plenty of new faces to challenge for the WAC title.

"We're a little tired of beating up on each other in inter-squad games, but we're excited about getting the season started," said coach John Smith who enters his 16th season as the manager of the Hornets (36-22 overall, 13-11 in conference in 1993).

Smith won't have to wait much longer as the Hornets will open their season this Saturday at Hornet Field against Santa Clara University, which used a late-inning rally to defeat San Francisco State 3-2 in its season opener on Tuesday. On Sunday, the two teams will travel to Santa Clara to complete the home and home weekend series.

"This team has a lot of untested people who don't have any experience at this level, but the team's chemistry and respect for each other is great," said Smith.

This year, the Hornets will have to get some of the newcomers to step up and perform with the loss of ace pitcher Roland DeLaMaza, the team's career home run hitter Will Fitzpatrick, lead-off hitter Matt Martinez, and catcher Tony Turnbull to graduation.

Along with the key losses to the team, the Hornets will again face one of the toughest schedules in the WAC's Western division, including games with Stanford, California, Arizona and conference powerhouses Hawaii and Fresno State.

"Top to bottom, this schedule is tough as nails," said Smith. "We may be picked to finish last in the division again this season, but we like it there and will take every game one at a time. There's no weak links in this schedule."

Two of the newcomers who will help in replacing Turnbull will be freshman Jason Quintel from Carmichael's Jesuit High School and junior transfer Jason Kirtlan from Sacramento City College; both will split the catching duties, along with veteran Todd Elorudy.

With two new faces behind the plate, they will have to help out with a young pitching staff full of untested arms and lack of Division I experience.

"The key to the season for the pitchers will be how fast can they adjust to this level of Division I baseball," said Smith. "Obviously, we don't have the dominating pitcher like (DeLaMaza), but we do have five or six pitchers who can go out and throw strikes and let the defense play behind them."

Through the Fall workouts, Smith found two of his starters in left-handed veterans Jason Beeman and Mike Eby, but could conceivably use five left-handed pitchers, including junior Chris Nave.

"For Beeman and Eby, they are both very solid starters," said Smith. "As for (Nave), he had an off-year last year, but was solid as a freshman and has returned to his old form over the fall. The team has confidence in him and he should have plenty coming in."

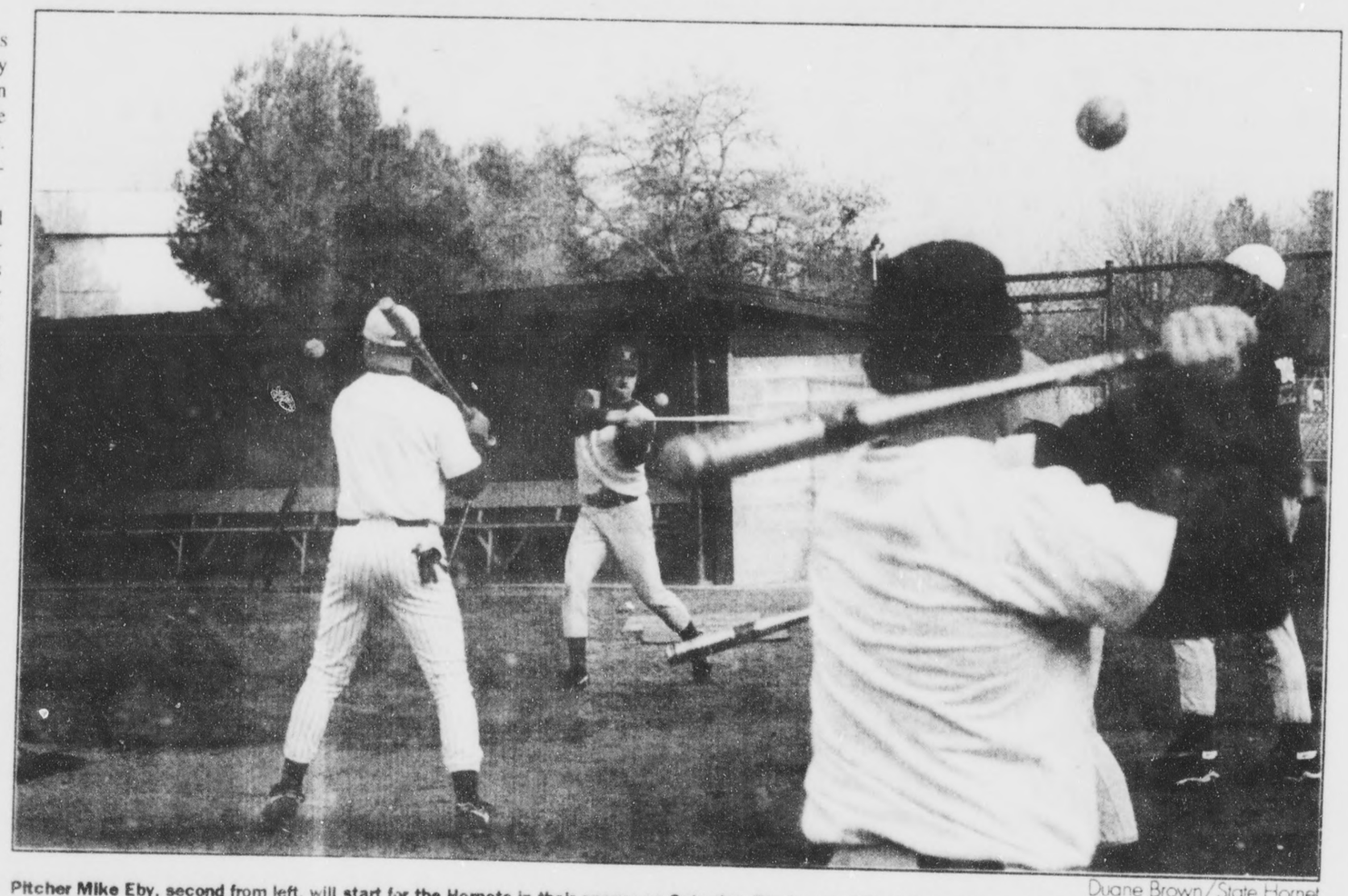
For the Hornet defense, the infield will have a mix of veteran experience and young faces. At first base, senior Josh Kirtlan (.313 batting average, nine home runs, 26 RBI) returns to his natural position after spending last season in the outfield. Kirtlan is also one of Smith's left-handed spot starters and may see an occasional start on the mound in non-conference games to give the starting rotation a rest.

At second, senior Rob Perry will take over replacing Mike Carpentier (.232 BA, three HR, 13 RBI), who has moved back to his natural position at shortstop. Perry, a transfer from Nebraska, comes to Sacramento with plenty of experience from the Big Eight Conference and from Sacramento City's championship teams.

With veteran Carpentier at shortstop, junior Derek Brown, a transfer from Rancho Santiago Junior College and a member of the 1993 state champion team, will round out the infield at third base.

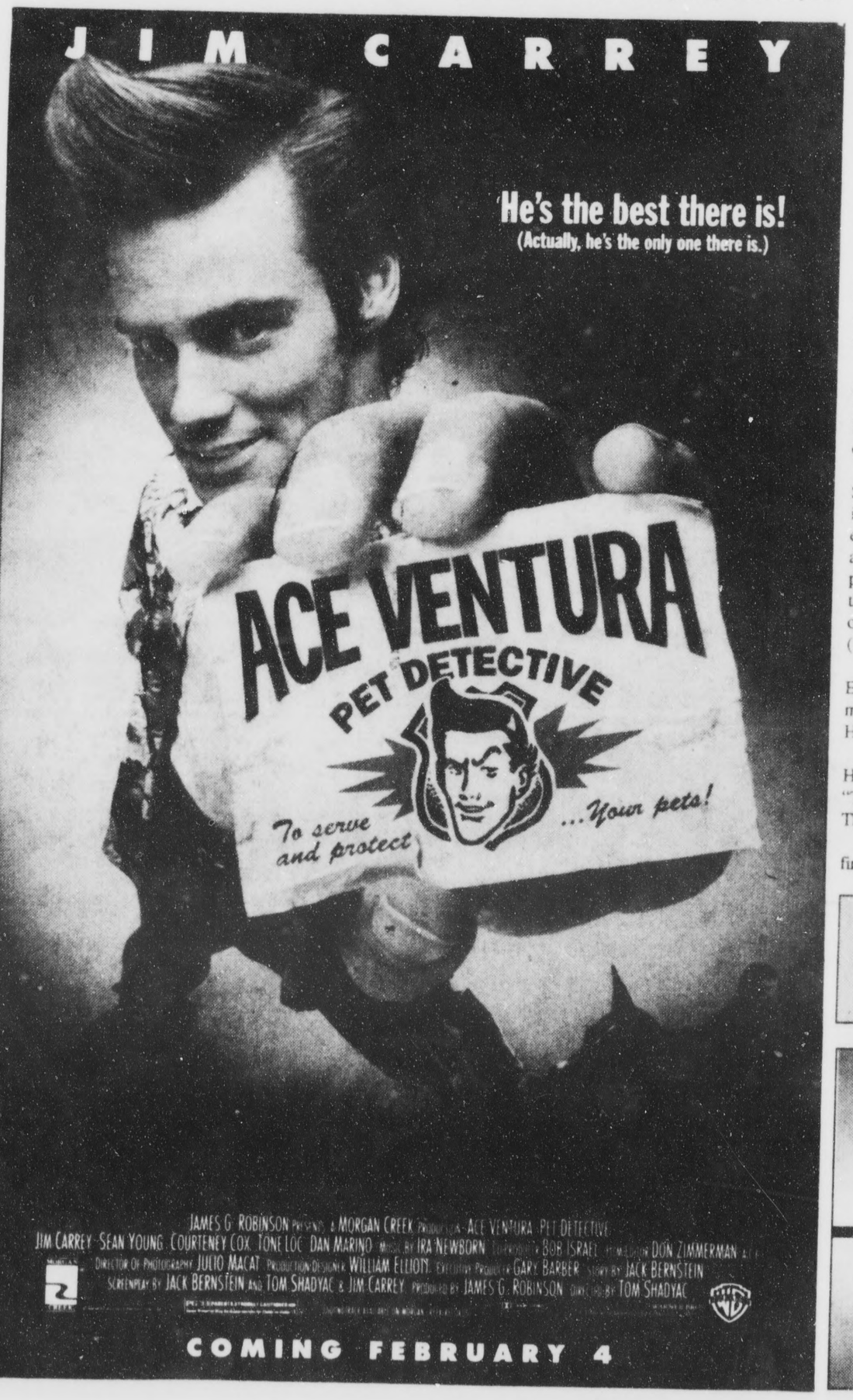
In the outfield, last year's team batting champion Ray Brown (.384 BA, seven HR, 35 RBI) will cover left field, senior Vince Beall will take over center field, and pitcher Jason Beeman, freshman Mathew Myers and junior Dan Veeter will platoon in right field.

Filling out the designated hitter spot will be junior Steve Thobe, who Smith said "could hit just as many homers as Fitzpatrick did here." Thobe is also the team's closer, who registered a school record 11 saves with a 1.64 ERA for the state champion Rancho Santiago team.



Pitcher Mike Eby, second from left, will start for the Hornets in their opener on Saturday. Eby is one of five left-handers on the Sacramento State staff.

Duane Brown/State Hornet



Women's basketball gears up for stretch run with a couple in Illinois this weekend

Point guard Stapp 17th in Division I in free-throw percentage

By NATHAN MOLLAT
HORNET STAFF WRITER

It is time for college basketball teams around the country to make their final push for post-season play. The Sacramento State women's team is no exception.

The Hornets enter their last eight games of the season including two this weekend on the road against Northeast Illinois on Saturday and Chicago State on Monday.

Sacramento State (11-7) goes into the Northeast Illinois game as the top independent team in the nation, ahead of Southern Utah (11-8).

The Hornets defeated the Golden Eagles, 93-67, last year in their only meeting. But Hornet coach Sue Huffman is not thinking about last year.

"They've made a coaching change," Huffman said of Northeast Illinois. "They're more intense on defense. They've got some good athletes."

The Golden Eagles are 11-6 in their first year in the East Coast Conference.

"It's pretty tough to beat them in their own home," Huffman said. "When you play on the road, I tell the girls, 'we're automatically down 10 points.'"

The Hornets are led by senior forward Kristy Ryan, the nation's leading scorer and third leading rebounder with 30.2 points and 13.3 boards per game. But she is finally getting some support from the rest of the team.

"A lot of other players have stepped up their game," Huffman said.

> "When you play on the road, I tell the girls, 'we're automatically down 10 points.'"
> —Sue Huffman

Among those stepping up are guard Sarah Stapp, who is the second-leading scorer on the team with 14.9 points per game. She ranks 17th in the nation at the free-throw line with an 86.6 shooting percentage.

Sophomore forward Shelby Boudreaux is also playing well, according to Huffman.

"She has really, really stepped up," Huffman said.

Over her last four games, Boudreaux has averaged 10.3 points and 5.5 rebounds per game.

Huffman is also impressed with the play of senior center Caren Siebe.

"She's the type you won't notice," Huffman said. "But at the end of the game she'll have 10 points. She is kinda quietly doing her job."

Huffman's best record while coaching at Sacramento State is 19-7 in the 1990-91 season. She hopes to duplicate that mark this season. But to do that, it will take eight wins in a row. And while she looks at it one game at a time, the chance for post-season play remains a possibility.

"It's always a goal," Huffman said about post-season play. "But it's in the hands of the committee. We'll have to wait and see."

The NCAA's women's tournament has been expanded to 64 teams this year, up from 48 a year ago. Sacramento State would have to earn one of 32 at-large bids to be named to the tournament.

Schedule change:
As a result of the Northridge earthquake, the Hornets mens' basketball game versus Cal State Northridge has been moved to Hornet Gym. Game time is 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

